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The following text message to be delivered to Chancellor Adenauer:

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Dear Chancellor Adenauer:

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4-13-68

I have asked Ambassador Dowling to return to Bonn to deliver to you the text of a public statement which I will be making this evening at 1900 hours Washington time. We are now in possession of firm evidence which Ambassador Dowling will explain to you that the Soviets have introduced offensive nuclear weapons into Cuba, and that certain of these may already be operational. You may recall that last month I made it clear that the United States would not tolerate ground-to-ground missiles based in Cuba. Subsequently, the Soviet Government stated that the arms and equipment it had sent to Cuba were exclusively of a defensive nature, and last Thursday Foreign Minister Gromyko repeated the same thing to me under instructions.

I have decided that the situation created by the Soviet action calls for the execution of certain nuclear quarantine measures, as outlined in my public statement, which will, I hope, convince Chairman

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

G - Mr. U. Alexis Johnson

Classified:

S/S - Mr. Little
EUR - Mr. Tyler

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Khrushchev of the dangers of his present course of action. In particular, the object of this immediate step is to prevent the Soviet Union from introducing additional offensive weapons into Cuba, and lead to the elimination of the missiles that are already in place. I am convinced that Khrushchev must be left with no grounds for miscalculation or underestimation of the consequences unless he withdraws the missiles which are already in Cuba. Also, I am expressing to Chairman Khrushchev my hope that we can resume the path of peaceful negotiation.

I have much in mind the possible relation of this secret and dangerous move on the part of Khrushchev to the situation of Germany and Berlin.

I plan to keep you closely informed of my thinking as events develop, and I will always be glad to receive any comments you may wish to send me.

John F. Kennedy

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